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Oswald,
Marina
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M E M O R A N D U M

TO : Norman ^{Int}Redlich

DATE: August 22, 1964

FROM : Stuart Pollak

As I indicated during the course of our conversation at the noon hour yesterday, it seems to me that the absence of a section in the Conspiracy Chapter dealing with Marina Oswald is an exceptionally obvious and glaring gap in the chapter as it now stands. Although most people at the Commission now assume a certain basic, if minimal, understanding of Marina and seem to feel that there is no basis for believing her to be a secret agent of the Soviet Government, the question of her status is one which most readers not only will be interested in, but will look for in the Report. Whatever the increased difficulty of treating Marina rather than some other witnesses in connection with a possible conspiracy, there is no adequate explanation for discussing such people as Michael Paine in that connection while failing to discuss the most obvious person in the category of possible accomplices who is, of course, Marina.

cc: Mr. Rankin
Mr. Willens
Mr. Pollak

Because of the difficulties in preparing such a section, it may be well to solicit from various members of the staff their suggestions as to the precise material which should be included in the discussion of Marina. Along this line, I would offer a tentative outline as follows:

- I. Information regarding Marina's background is limited.
 - A. However, Marina's testimony and any available confirming evidence indicates whatever the facts may be as to her parents, upbringing, etc., and her marriage to Oswald.
- II. Brief reference to earlier discussion regarding Oswald's exit from the Soviet Union, showing no special treatment by Soviet officials.
 - A. Evidence of harassment of Marina by Soviet officials prior to departure.
 - B. Marina's correspondence with Soviet Embassy in Washington normal, not in code.
- III. Marina's activity after arrival in United States provides no sign that she was a secret agent.
 - A. Slow in learning English.
 - B. Settled with Oswald in area of limited strategic sensitivity; she travelled back and forth to New Orleans in accordance with Oswald's job fortunes, over which Oswald did not have direct control.
 - C. No acquaintance in Dallas-Fort Worth area observed anything unusual or suspicious about Marina's behavior; to the contrary, her acquaintances observed her acting and being treated by her husband in a manner fully consistent with her testimony.

- D. She seemed generally concerned only about her personal problems with Oswald, to which bruises, observed arguments, and separation from Oswald gave evidence of authenticity. Such conduct seems unlikely if either she, or she and Oswald were secret agents.
- E. Marina's testimony before the Commission was not always complete and in some instances was somewhat misleading. However, in general Marina has come forward with extensive information about herself and Oswald, most of which has held up under investigation. Her testimony may have been influenced by strain and by the fact that she was interrogated through an interpreter.

IV. The Commission has no evidence that Marina had prior knowledge that Oswald intended to assassinate the President.

- A. Marina may have known in advance about the Walker shooting.
- B. Nixon incident.
- C. Following news of the shooting, Marina immediately became concerned. However, Marina herself divulged this concern to the Commission; she knew Oswald worked at the TSBD and by then certainly knew of her husband's tendency to shoot at people. To those who were with her at the time, she evidenced genuine surprise when Oswald's rifle was found to be missing from the blanket.
- D. The Commission cannot evaluate the extent of intimacy between Oswald and Marina; though it is possible that Oswald may have said something to Marina which in retrospect provided some indication that he intended to do something rash at some point, there is no evidence that Marina was aware that her husband intended to attack President Kennedy on November 22, and there is no evidence that she assisted in the assassination in any way.